Attempts by Pakistan to seek American Involvement in Resolving Kashmir Dispute

*730. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI N.E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the President of Pakistan, Mr. Farooq Ahmad Leghari has sought America's active involvement in resolving the Kashmir dispute; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Government have seen reports to the effect that the President of Pakistan during his visit to the US on May 20-31, 1994 sought that the US must remain actively engaged in addressing Kashmir issue. Government are of the view all differences between India and Pakistan, including aspects relating to J&K issue, should be resolved peacefully and through bilateral negotiations in accordance with the Simla Agreement and there can be no role of any sort for any third party.

Clearance of Proposal for Expansion of Gujarat Refinery

*731. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have cleared the plan of Indian Oil Corporation for expansion of its Gujarat Refinery;

(b) if so, what is the total expenditure involved and what will be the foreign exchange component; and

(c) by when the project is likely to be completed and what will be the increase in the Refinery's capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The Indian Oil Corporation Limited has submitted a proposal to the Govenment for 3 MMTPA Crude distillation unit, Revamp of Feed Preparation Unit (FPU/Fluidised Catalytic Cracking Unit (FCCU) of Gujarat Refinery and Augmentation of Salaya-Viramgam-Koyali Crude Oil Pipeline. The proposal has been considered by the Public Investment Board (PIB) who recommended its approval. The estimated cost as per Detailed Feasibility Report is approximately Rs. 897 crores including foreign exchange component of Rs. 71 crores. The project is expected to be mechanically completed within 36 months from the date of Governments approval. With the implementation of the project, the refining capacity of the refinery is expected to increase from the existing level of 9.5 MMTPA to 12.5 MMTPA.

Need for more Government Hospitals in Rural Areas

*732. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Government hospitals in the country including those of States and other hospitals alongwith their number in rural and urban areas;

(b) the average number of persons catered to by such hospitals in rural and urban areas separately;

(c) the number of private hospitals and average patients treated by them; and

(d) what are Government's plans to increase the number of hospitals in rural areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) As on 1.1.1992, there were 3568 and 7606 hospitals in rural and urban areas

respectively as per information available.

(b) and (c) 4757 and 6417 hospitals are run by Government/local bodies and private/voluntary agencies respectively. The average number of persons served by a hospital was 76082 per year.

(d) The plan envisages establishment of a community health centre for 80,000-1,20,000 population in a phased manner.

Circular Railway in Calcutta

*733. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Circular Railway in Calcutta could not be completed due to the non-availability of Calcutta Port Trust land;

(b) if so, what steps the Railway Ministry has undertaken to pursue the CPT authorities for the required land;

(c) what is the present status; and

(d) what does the Railway Ministry propose to complete the circle?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Railway administration held a series of discussions with CPT authorities at various levels and the matter was also taken up with the Ministry of Surface Transport at the highest level.

(c) Sanctioned project of Calcutta Circular Railway from Dum Dum to Princepghat (13.5 Km.) has already been completed and commissioned for traffic on 17.6.1990. However, the proposal of extension from Princepghat to Majerhat (5.5 Km.) could not be finalised as the CPT authorities are not agreeable to part with their land through which the proposed alignment passes.

(d) Under the circumstances, as an alternative, Elevated Track through Customs Bonded area as well as Garden Reach Road and Circular Garden Reach Road has since been considered. A feasibility survey has been taken up with target of July, 1994. Further action depends on results of the survey.

Permanent Residence Card to NRIs

*734. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to provide permanent residence card to Non-Resident Indians;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposal;

(c) the number of NRIs likely to be benefited by the proposal; and

(d) whether a proposal to accord dual citizenship to NRIs has finally been rejected; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) (a) and (b) Government has had under consideration for some time a proposal to issue PIO Cards to Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) to facilitate entry, exit, stay, movement and investment in the country. The Government has not yet taken any final decision on the proposal.

(c) There are over 9 million persons of Indian origin who have taken foreign citizenship apart from over 3 million Indian citizens resident abroad.

(d) The Constitution of India and the Citizenship Act, 1955 do not recognise the concept of dual citizenship.

Loss to the Exchequer in Jammu and Kashmir

*735. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention